

DECORATIONS AND MEDALS

(UNITED STATES)

WORLD BOOK photos



MEDAL OF HONOR
(ARMY-AIR FORCE)



MEDAL OF HONOR
(NAVY)



DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE CROSS
(ARMY)



AIR FORCE
CROSS



NAVY CROSS



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL
(ARMY-AIR FORCE)



(NAVY)



DISTINGUISHED
FLYING CROSS



PURPLE HEART



SILVER STAR



LEGION OF MERIT
(CHIEF COMMANDER)



VICTORY MEDAL
(WORLD WAR I)



VICTORY MEDAL
(WORLD WAR II)



NASA
DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE MEDAL



PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM



YOUNG AMERICAN
MEDAL FOR BRAVERY

— Signers of the Declaration of Independence —

A biography of each signer of the Declaration of Independence appears in *THE WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA*. Fifty members of Congress signed the engrossed copy of the Declaration on Aug. 2, 1776.

In the order they signed, they were:

John Hancock (Mass.)	William Williams (Conn.)
Josiah Bartlett (N.H.)	Benjamin Franklin (Pa.)
Philip Livingston (N.Y.)	William Paca (Md.)
Robert T. Paine (Mass.)	Francis Hopkinson (N.J.)
William Floyd (N.Y.)	Thomas Stone (Md.)
John Adams (Mass.)	Charles Carroll (Md.)
Francis Lewis (N.Y.)	Thomas Jefferson (Va.)
George Walton (Ga.)	George Taylor (Pa.)
Samuel Adams (Mass.)	Edward Rutledge (S.C.)
Richard Stockton (N.J.)	Joseph Hewes (N.C.)
Samuel Huntington (Conn.)	James Smith (Pa.)
Stephen Hopkins (R.I.)	George Ross (Pa.)
John Hart (N.J.)	George Clymer (Pa.)
Abraham Clark (N.J.)	Thomas Heyward, Jr. (S.C.)
Lewis Morris (N.Y.)	Button Gwinnett (Ga.)
John Morton (Pa.)	George Read (Del.)
Francis Lightfoot Lee (Va.)	James Wilson (Pa.)
John Penn (N.C.)	Thomas Lynch, Jr. (S.C.)
Roger Sherman (Conn.)	Samuel Chase (Md.)
William Whipple (N.H.)	Carter Braxton (Va.)
John Witherspoon (N.J.)	Benjamin Rush (Pa.)
William Ellery (R.I.)	Lyman Hall (Ga.)
William Hooper (N.C.)	Caesar Rodney (Del.)
Robert Morris (Pa.)	Thomas Nelson (Va.)
Benjamin Harrison (Va.)	Arthur Middleton (S.C.)

George Wythe (Va.) signed on August 27. On September 4, the document was signed by Richard Henry Lee (Va.), Elbridge Gerry (Mass.), and Oliver Wolcott (Conn.). Matthew Thornton (N.H.) signed on November 19. Thomas McKean (Del.) signed in 1781.

Philadelphia. This draft was largely Jefferson's work. John Hancock signed the document "by order and in behalf of Congress." Charles Thomson, secretary of Congress, attested Hancock's signature.

The public did not learn the actual words of the Declaration until July 8. The final version was called a "unanimous" declaration. But the word "unanimous" could not be properly used until July 19, when the New York delegation to Congress, which had not voted on July 4, reported that it favored the Declaration. Congress then ordered a copy of the Declaration engrossed on parchment and signed by all members of Congress. Fifty members signed the document on Aug. 2, 1776.

The ideas contained in the Declaration were not new. The English had used many of the same ideas to justify their revolution of 1688. But the simple beauty of the Declaration of Independence stirred the hearts of men and women from New Hampshire to Georgia.

When the British raided Washington in the War of 1812, the government hid the Declaration in Leesburg, Va. The Library of Congress in Washington held the original document from 1921 to 1952. Then the government moved the Declaration to the nearby National Archives Building. The text of the Declaration given in this article follows the spelling and punctuation of the parchment copy.

RICHARD B. MORRIS

See also ADAMS, JOHN (National Politics); CONTINENTAL CONGRESS; JEFFERSON, THOMAS; UNITED STATES, GOVERNMENT OF (color picture).

DECORATION DAY

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS. See BILL OF RIGHTS; CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

DECLARATORY ACT. See REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN AMERICA (Events Leading to the Revolution).

DECLENSION is a listing of the different case forms of a noun or pronoun. Some languages, such as Latin, Greek, and Russian, have complicated case systems. They have many forms for each noun or pronoun, varying with the way the words are used in sentences.

In English, the declension of nouns is extremely simple. English nouns have only two cases, a *common* case and a *possessive* case. For example:

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
<i>Common</i>	boy, man	boys, men
<i>Possessive</i>	boy's, man's	boys', men's

Six English pronouns have three cases, usually called *nominative*, *possessive*, and *objective*. These pronouns are *I*, *he*, *she*, *we*, *they*, and *who*. Here are the singular forms for three of them:

	I	he	who
<i>Nominative</i>	I	he	who
<i>Possessive</i>	my, mine	his	whose
<i>Objective</i>	me	him	whom

Some pronouns have two possessive forms. One is used when the possessive is a modifier, as in "my team won"; "her cup broke"; "their letters came." The other form is used when the possessive is not a modifier, as in "mine won"; "hers broke"; "theirs came."

The form *whom* is probably dying out in speech, but it is used in writing when it is the object, as in "Whom should we ask?"

PAUL ROBERTS

See also CASE; INFLECTION.

DECLINATION. See COMPASS (Variation).

DECODE. See CODES AND CIPHERS.

DECOMPOSITION, in chemistry, is the breaking down of a substance into simpler products, or into the elements of which it is composed. Decomposition may be brought about in several ways. Heat decomposes red mercuric oxide into its elements of oxygen and bright metallic mercury. Heat breaks down limestone to form lime and carbon dioxide. Heat also decomposes many organic compounds. An electric current decomposes water into its elements hydrogen and oxygen. Many substances are decomposed by chemical action. Sodium carbonate is used to decompose silicate rocks. Starch is broken down into a simple sugar, called *glucose*, by the action of a boiling, dilute acid. Decomposition may also be caused by the action of light, bacteria, or enzymes. The enzymes in yeast ferment sugar into simple products.

A distinction is sometimes made between decomposition caused by man, as in chemistry, and decomposition that occurs in nature. For example, animal and vegetable matter, when attacked by certain microorganisms, are said to *decompose*, or decay. Decay that occurs naturally is also called *putrefaction*. The decomposition of animals and plants plays an important part in geology. For example, coal and petroleum are formed from ferns and other marsh plants that became buried in swamps and decayed.

JAMES S. FRITZ

DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS. See BENDS.

DECORATION, INTERIOR. See INTERIOR DECORATION.

DECORATION DAY. See MEMORIAL DAY.

DECORATIONS AND MEDALS honor persons who have performed deeds of bravery or distinguished service. The terms *decoration* and *medal* often refer to the same thing.

Almost every nation awards military decorations and medals. Many countries also have decorations that honor civilians. Nations often present decorations to members of military forces of friendly countries, and to statesmen and distinguished citizens of other countries. Some *orders* are actually decorations. For example, an English military leader may be knighted to honor his contribution to the security of his country (see **KNIGHTHOOD, ORDERS OF**).

Persons receive decorations for deeds that meet certain standards required by law or by order of a

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government or ruler. A person must be recommended individually for a decoration. Decorations differ from *service medals*, which are given only to military personnel and need no special recommendation. Military personnel receive service medals for long service with good conduct, or for service in wars or emergencies.

Most decorations are in the form of a star or cross, but some are round. Service medals are usually round. Most decorations and service medals are made of silver or bronze. They hang from ribbons of different color combinations. Each award has its own design and motto.

Persons wear decorations in rows on the left breast, before or above service medals. A few high decorations hang from ribbons or chains worn around the neck. People usually wear decorations only on formal occasions. At other times, military personnel wear rows of *service ribbons*. These ribbons have the same color combination as the ribbon of the decoration. Civilians wear

UNITED STATES MILITARY DECORATIONS AND MEDALS

(Listed in order of importance)

Name of Medal	Year Established	Persons Eligible	Awarded For
Medal of Honor	1861 (Navy) 1862 (Army) (Air Force)	All ranks of the U.S. armed forces only	Gallantry in action
Distinguished Service Cross (Army)	1918	All ranks of the armed forces	Exceptional heroism in combat
Navy Cross	1919		
Air Force Cross	1960		
Distinguished Service Medal	1918 (Army) 1919 (Navy) 1951 (Coast Guard)	Usually, only high-ranking officers	Exceptional meritorious service in a duty of great responsibility
Silver Star	1932	All ranks of the armed forces	Gallantry in action
Legion of Merit	1942	Normally to officers	Exceptionally meritorious service in peace or war
Distinguished Flying Cross	1926	All ranks of the armed forces	Heroism or extraordinary achievement in flight
Soldier's Medal	1926	All ranks of the armed forces	Heroism not involving conflict with the enemy
Navy and Marine Corps Medal	1942		
Airman's Medal	1960		
Coast Guard Medal	1951		
Bronze Star	1944	All ranks of the armed forces	Heroic or meritorious achievement during military operations
Air Medal	1942	All ranks of the armed forces	Meritorious achievement in flight
Commendation Medal	1944 (Navy) 1945 (Army) 1947 (Coast Guard) 1958 (Air Force)	All members of the armed forces	Meritorious service in war or peace
Purple Heart	1932 (Army) 1942 (Navy)	All ranks of the armed forces	Wounds or death in combat

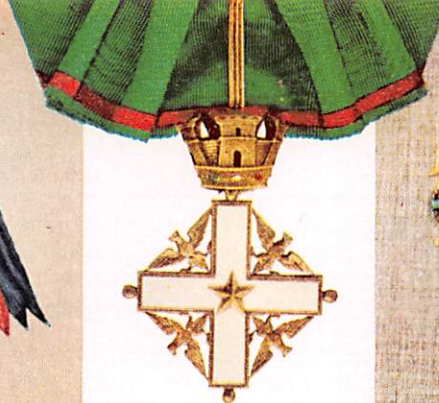
UNITED STATES CIVILIAN DECORATIONS AND MEDALS

Presidential Medal of Freedom	1963	Any person	Service connected with U.S. or national interest, or cultural or public service
Gold and Silver Lifesaving Medals	1874	Any person	Lifesaving in maritime waters at personal risk of life
National Security Medal	1953	Any person	Distinguished achievement in the field of national security
President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service	1957	Federal employees	Outstanding service
Young American Medals for Bravery and for Service	1950	U.S. residents under 19	Courage or public service
National Aeronautics and Space Administration Distinguished Service Medal	1959	Astronauts and NASA personnel	Heroism or distinguished service



Consulate General of Japan, New York

**GRAND CORDON OF THE SUPREME
ORDER OF THE CHRYSANTHEMUM**
(JAPAN)



**ORDER OF MERIT OF
THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC**
(ITALY)



Royal Swedish Embassy, Washington, D.C.

ROYAL ORDER OF THE SERAPHIM
(SWEDEN)



**CROIX DE
GUERRE**
(FRANCE)



**VICTORIA
CROSS**
(GREAT BRITAIN)



**DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE ORDER**
(GREAT BRITAIN)



**IRON
CROSS**
(GERMANY)



**KOREAN SERVICE
MEDAL**
(UNITED NATIONS)



**ORDER OF
LENIN**
(RUSSIA)



**LEGION
OF HONOR**
(FRANCE)

WORLD BOOK photos

DECORATIONS AND MEDALS OF OTHER COUNTRIES

a small emblem in the lapel to represent the medal.

Most decorations are awarded only once to the same person. If a person earns the award a second time, he receives a small emblem to pin on the decoration or service ribbon.

United States Decorations and Medals

Military Awards. In 1782, General George Washington established the first U.S. military decoration, the *Badge of Military Merit*. It became the *Purple Heart* in 1932. The heart-shaped badge was made of purple cloth. Washington created it to honor his soldiers for extraordinary bravery during the Revolutionary War. Only three men received it.

After the Revolutionary War, the United States had no decorations until Congress approved the *Medal of Honor* in 1861, during the Civil War. Decorations were unpopular in the United States during the nation's early years because many people considered them symbols of European monarchies. Even the establishment of the Medal of Honor caused much debate. But more than 1,900 U.S. servicemen received it during the Civil War and the Indian Wars. The medal was the only U.S. decoration until World War I. In 1918, Congress restricted the Medal of Honor to persons who perform the most extraordinary acts of heroism. Today, this decoration, often called the *Congressional Medal of*

Honor, is the United States' highest military award.

After the United States entered World War I in 1917, General John J. Pershing, commander of the U.S. forces, suggested the creation of additional decorations. In 1918, Congress established the *Distinguished Service Cross* for heroism in the army. In 1919, Congress established a similar award, the *Navy Cross*, for the U.S. Navy. In 1918, Congress created the *Distinguished Service Medal* to honor achievement by high-ranking army officers. A small silver star emblem on the Service Medal represented awards for bravery.

Congress established the *Distinguished Flying Cross* for military personnel and some civilians in 1926. Congress authorized the *Soldier's Medal* in 1926 to honor army troops for noncombat bravery.

In 1932, the President changed the small silver star emblem for bravery to a full-sized decoration on a ribbon, the *Silver Star*. Also in 1932, on the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth, the President revived the Badge of Military Merit as the Purple Heart. At first, only the army awarded the Purple Heart. Soldiers could claim the award if they had been wounded in any earlier war or had received a special commendation certificate in World War I. In 1941, the War Department reserved the award for wounds in action. In 1942, the navy adopted the award for wounds in action.

Several new decorations appeared during World War